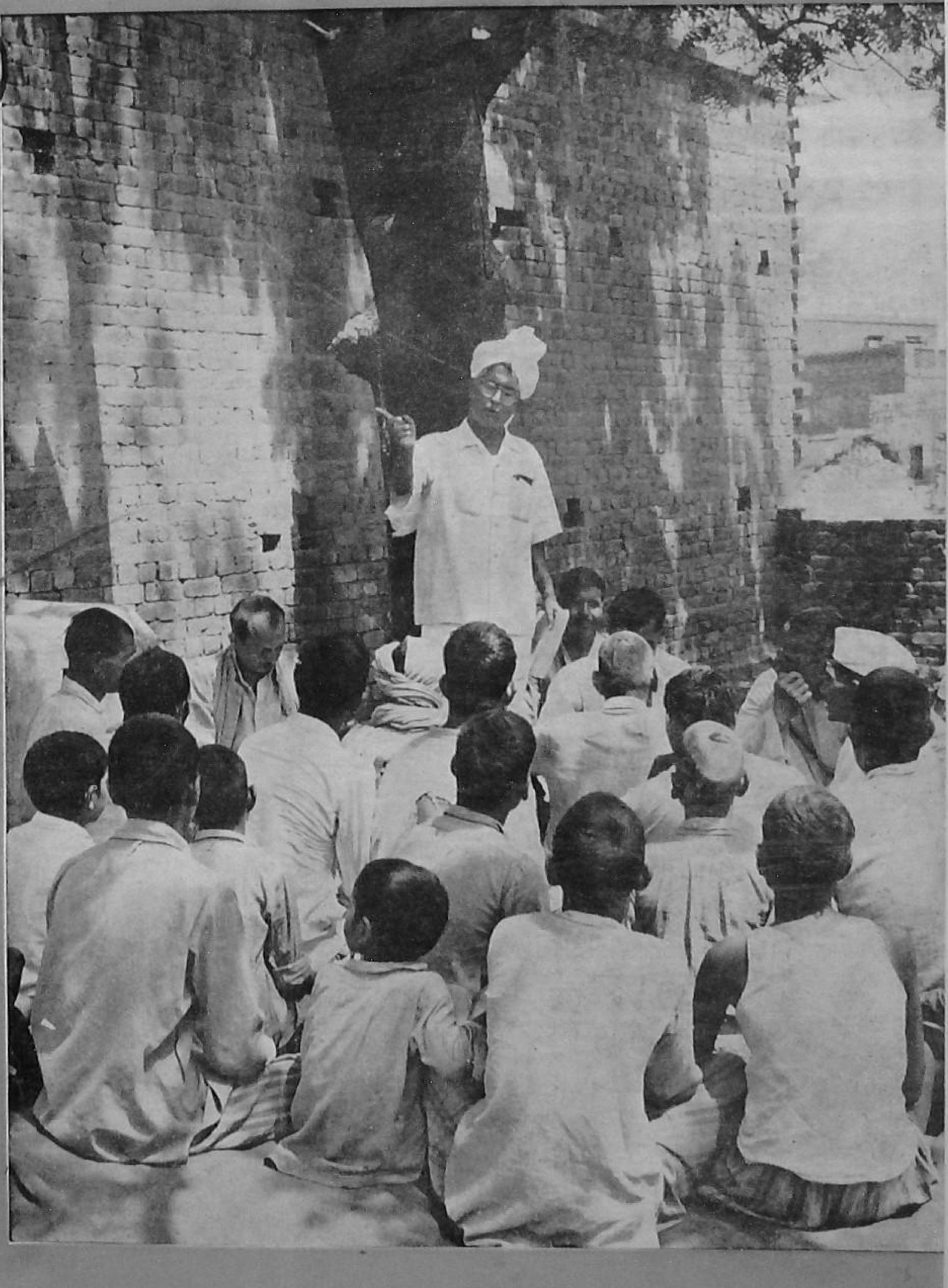
GRAM SEVAK

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
2 - MAY 1959
KOVILPATTI
RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE



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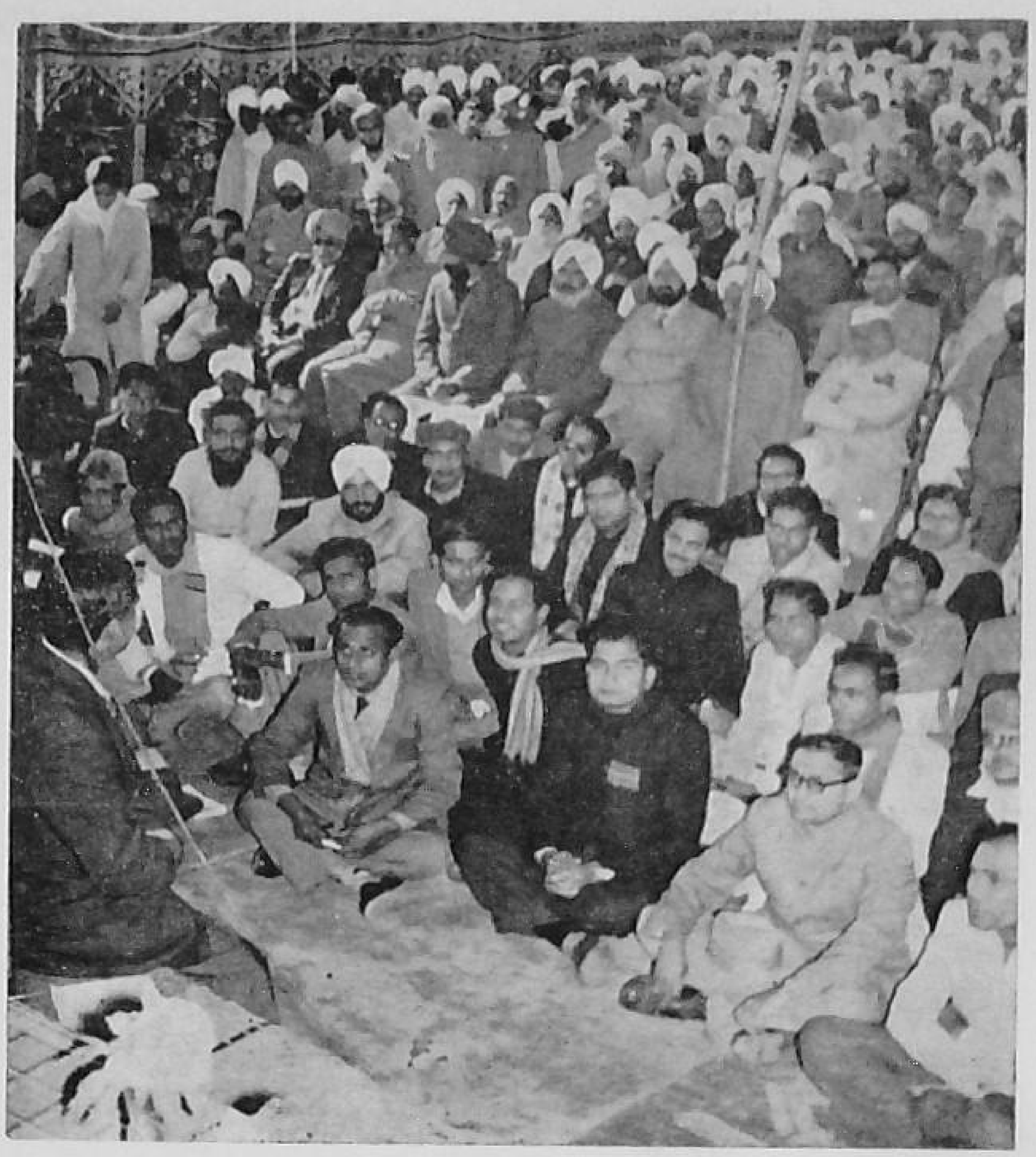

Seminar of Panches, Samalakha, Punjab

PANCHAYAT SEMINAR AND TOURNAMENT

OVER NIGHT a township of tents arose in the camping ground at Samalakha, a mandi-town on the G.T. Road in the Gur and Chillie producing tract of Punjab about 125 miles south of Chandigarh. The town was selected as the venue of the State Panchayat Tournament, Panches Seminar and the Young Farmers' Rally held from December 25 to 29, 1958. The new township was given the name of Panchayat Nagar. Here assembled Panches and Sarpanches from all over the State to deliberate upon their problems. More than 1,000 selected athletes in about 100 teams came to participate in a friendly tournament to decide their superiority in games. Panchayat functions of this type had been organised every year in the State, but this was for the first time that the Seminar, Young Farmers' rally and the tournament were held simultaneously at one place. It was also for the first time that representatives from other States namely, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar participated in the Seminar. About 50,000 persons from far and near witnessed the Tournament and the Seminar daily.

The aim of holding the Panches' Seminar was to discuss day-to-day problems facing the Panchayats and find out their solution. Representatives from other States were invited so that their advice may also be available. The Seminar was attended by 500 Sarpanches and Panches from all over the State. These representatives were selected by about 11,000 Panchayats.

In the new Punjab, which came into being after the merger of PEPSU, two Panchayat Acts are in force—the Punjab Act and the PEPSU Act. The two Acts are to be unified into one Act. Problem of Panchayat Finances is also a vexing one. Even though, the Panchayats have been given 10% of the land revenue and also the proprietory rights in village *shamlats* or commonland, unless effective measures are taken to realise the hearth and other taxes imposed by the Panchayats, no appreciable progress can be made. Administration of speedy and cheap justice in the village, increasing foodgrain production, organising cottage industries, improving village sanitation and hygienic environments providing healthy recreation to the village panchayat elections and canalising the dormant energy of the people for the reconstruction of the villages are some of the other problems facing the Panchayats. The Panches discussed all these and other problems in their Seminar. They also had group discussions.

TOURNAMENT

The cream of rural youth in more than 100 teams from all

(*Continued on cover page* 3)

मज़दूर ग्राम सेवक मंज़िल

GRAM SEVAK

Magha-Phalguna 1880

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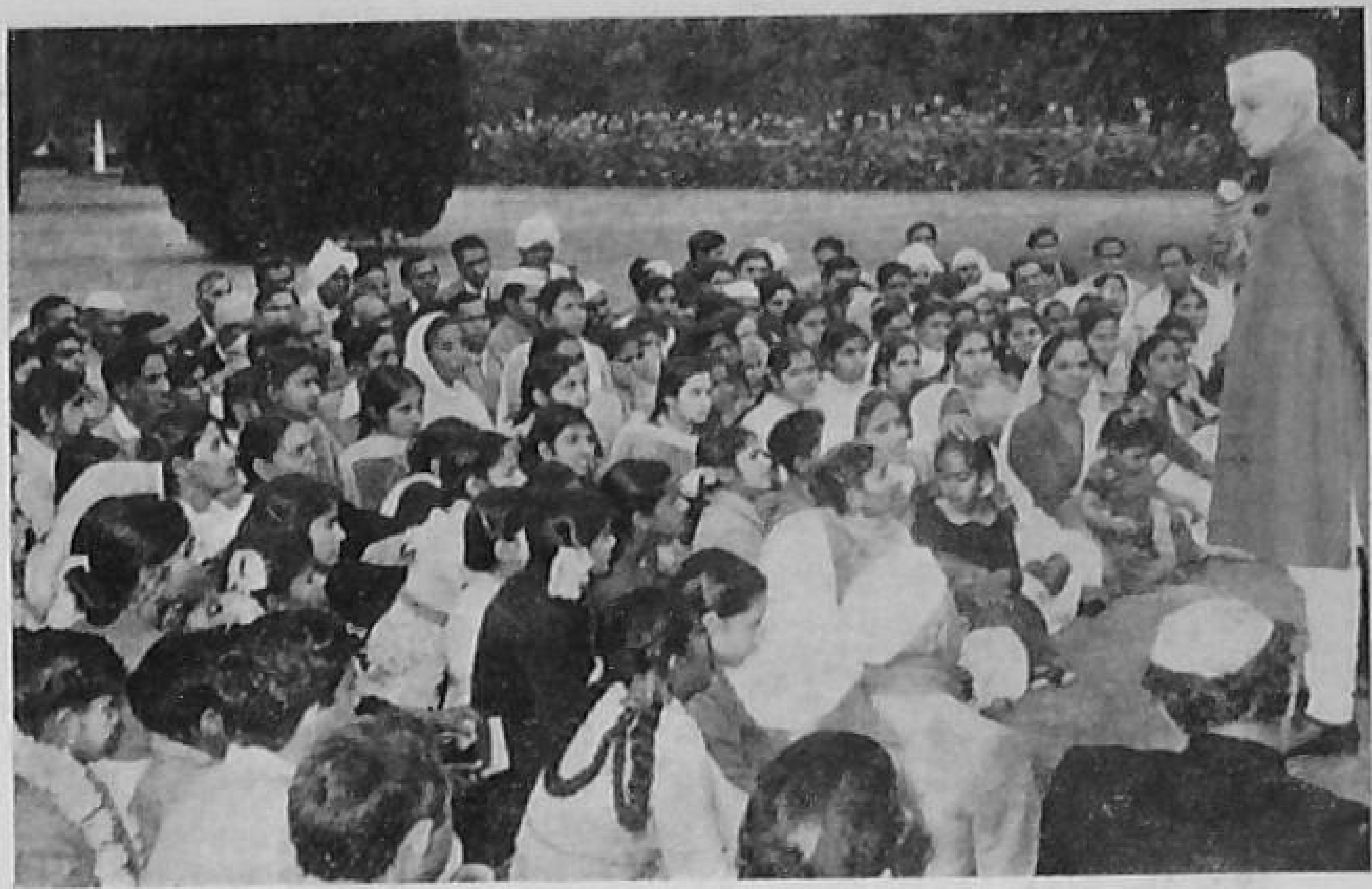


Prime Minister Shri Nehru addressing a group of young village workers who called on him at his residence

CO-OPERATIVES

THE GREAT ROLE co-operatives have to play in developing the rural economy has again been stressed by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, in the course of an address to a public meeting consisting largely of peasants, at Gangad (Ahmedabad district). The Prime Minister had gone to Gangad to meet Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

The Prime Minister said that co-operatives should not confine their activities to advancing loans, but should embrace the entire economic activity in the villages.

Shri Nehru said : "I do not desire that officials should be associated in co-operatives. They should not interfere, though their assistance and co-operation may be taken. I know the difficulties in the working of such co-operatives, but I do not mind mistakes being committed. After all, people learn from their own experience and stand on their own".

Describing the co-operatives as one of the three pillars of democracy in the rural economy, the Prime Minister added that co-operatives could be a very important instrument in the hands of the people for developing agriculture and raising the yield of their lands. "There can be two types of co-operatives, which can be put to use in our economy. Farmers can bring together their lands and adopt the method of joint farming in which the members share the income on a stipulated basis. The other method is one in which peasants join together in cultivating their lands with maximum benefits from their resources and each of them receiving the yield from his land. In any case, the peasants can decide to part with at least ten per cent of their yield as contribution to the community fund in the village co-operative".

On the subject of co-operative farming, he said later at Ahmedabad at a Press Conference : "Whatever we do, we do with the consent of the people. But the objective is joint-farming by which boundaries would go but the shares will be separate and every owner gets his share. This would give greater production. Also, a certain portion of the land could be set apart for the village community. That is the ideal. But the first stage should be service co-operatives and then of joint farming. In new lands, we can have joint-farming immediately".

AND NOW CO-OPERATION

THE C.O.P.P. TEAM which studied the working of the Community Development programme in all its details had pointed out in its report that co-operation and rural self-governing institutions were so closely connected with the programme of Community Development that it would be useful if these were brought under one Ministry—the Ministry which deals with the co-ordination of rural developmental activities all over the country, namely, the Ministry of Community Development.

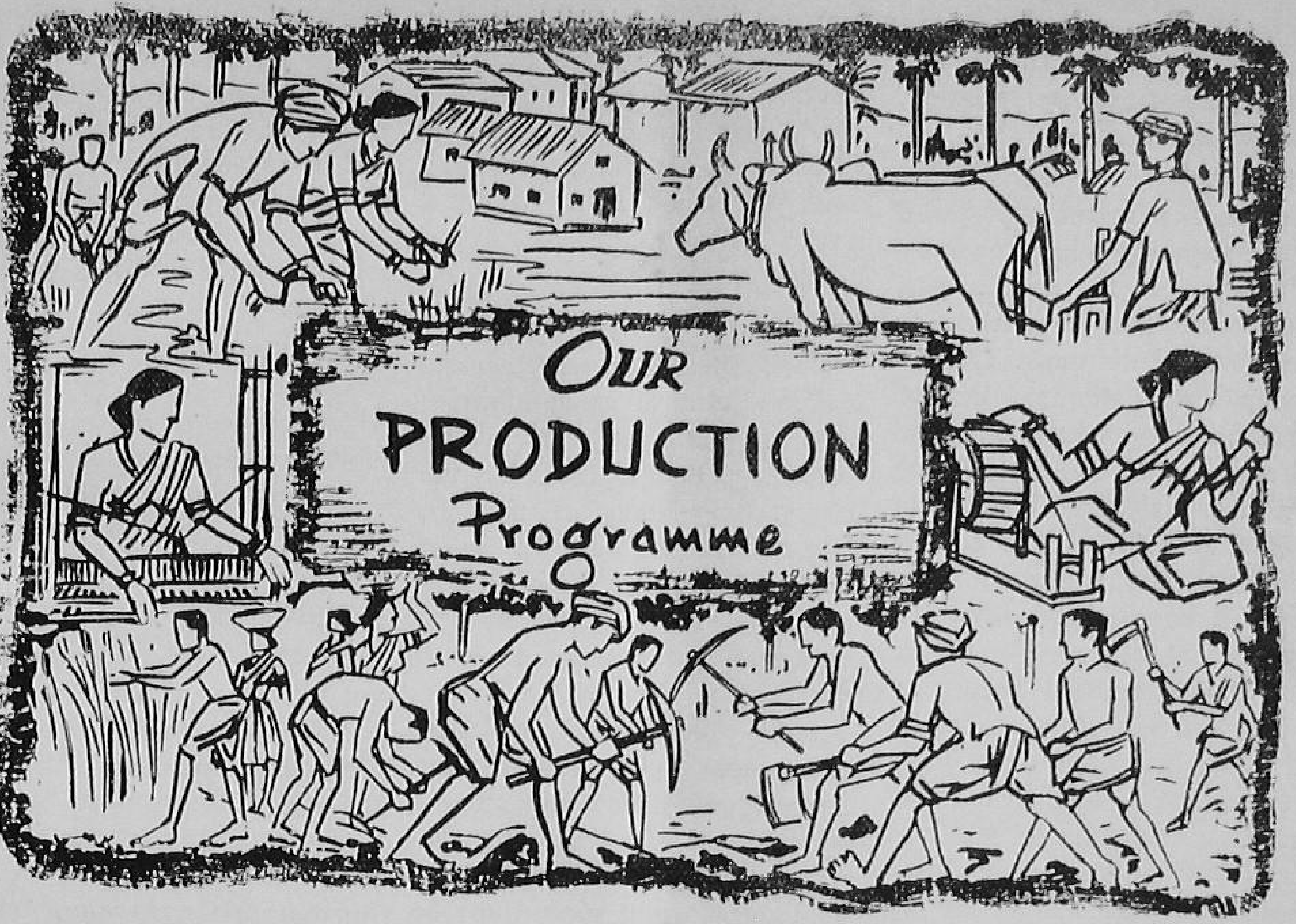
Panchayats were transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community Development in March, 1958. With effect from December 30, 1958 the work relating to Co-operation and Co-operative Movement, including the work relating to the National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board, has been transferred from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to the Ministry of Community Development. The latter has now been re-designated as Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, and consists of two departments, *viz.,* (1) Department of Community Development and (2) Department of Co-operation.

The primary objective of the co-operative movement in India, which is a little more than 50 years old, has been the organisation of co-operative credit societies in urban and rural areas to relieve indebtedness and promote thrift. Large sections of the rural population, however, remained outside their membership. The movement had its limitations. Its inspiration was official and it evoked limited response from the people. It could not effectively meet the challenge of indebtedness in rural areas.

The National Development Council has now declared that for the development of co-operation as a people's movement, it was essential that co-operatives should be organised on the basis of the village community as the primary unit and that responsibility and initiative for social and economic development at the village level should be placed fully on the village co-operative and the village panchayat. As a rule, the co-operative and the panchayat should serve identical areas. Where villages were too small, with the consent of the communities concerned, they should be formed into larger groups with a population of about 1000.

GANDHIJI ON CO-OP. FARMING

"I firmly believe that we shall not derive the full benefits of agrculture until we take to co-operative farming. Does it not stand to reson that it is far better for a hundred families in a village to cultivate their lands collectively and divide the income therefrom than to divide the land anyhow into a hundred portions? And what applies to land applies equally to cattle."



HIGH POTENCY MANURES

The following experience of the Kora Gramodyog Kendra, Bombay relating to food production, will be read with great interest by Project workers and Progressive farmers—EDITOR.

AS THERE IS a great shortage of manure in India, we have to concentrate more on the production and use of local manure. Mass Programme for the following is suggested :—

URINE (HIRA KHAT)

Urine should be conserved in pits to be used alternatively which are filled with dry leaves and waste materials. The urine compost is ready within 3 to 4 months. The conservation of urine may be taken up in Schools, Educational Institutions, Jails, Hospitals, Public stands and other places wherever there is possibility of getting a large amount of urine.

One day's urine of an adult contains 12.10 Gr. Nitrogen, 1.80 Gr. Phospheric Acid and 12.2 Gr. Potash. This is one of the best manure having all the ingredients required by the Plant.

SILT

There are a number of tanks in the rural areas which are full of rich silt. The silt from Nalas, Tanks, and gutters are collected and used extensively by the Chinese and Japanese farmers. Silt is rich in organic manures, and is a very good soil-improver, and helps humus formation of the soil. The mass programme should be taken up for collecting this silt and transferring the same to the fields.

GREEN MANURE

One method of getting green manure is growing such crops as Sun hemp, Dhancha etc. and ploughing-in the same. The second method is to grow Sesbenia, Glyricidia etc. It has been found that the Glyricidia is the best since it can be grown on road sides, hedges and bunds in all climates. The more you prune, the longer the foilage,

and it can be pruned as many as 4 times a year. It can be very easily propagated by planting, cuttings and seeds.

COMPOST

Compost manure is prepared in pits, requiring a large quantity of material to fill up the pits, with a considerable patience to collect and fill the same. There is a simple and alternate method known as heap method, with mud plastering, which can be taken up on a mass scale. Any quantity of material available can be collected, heaped and plastered. This heap can be prepared along the bunds or at the corners of the field. Mass Campaign to turn all rubbish and waste into compost and return it to the soil can be taken up. A special feature of the compost manure as observed in China is to treat with small doses of bacterial culture for enriching the manure.

COW DUNG

The major fuel problem of the villager is met by utilising the cow dung cake thereby depriving the soil of a very useful and rich manure. We are short of fuel wood and supply of coal to all villages is next to impossible, thereby necessitating the burning of the cow dung. We propose installation of Family Gas Plants in villages, by which both the ends will be served, *viz.*, the fuel and the manure. A Family Gas Plant will cost roughly Rs. 500 to 600, requiring about 60 to 80 lbs. of cow dung daily which will produce enough Methane Gas of high calorific value giving enough heat for one family cooking and also light for 4 to 6 hours.

Cow dung, that is put in, comes out fully in a digested form without losing its manurial value and is richly humus. It is, therefore, suggested that the State should give grants and loan on 50-50 basis for putting up such small plants and arranging for a service of a technician roughly for 50 Gas Plants.

DIGESTED MANURE

Cooked flesh and leather waste is a good nitrogen manure having 10% of nitrogen with certain percentage Potash. India has the largest population of animals. Digested bones are a good source of organic phospheric acid containing 27% P_2O_5 with 3% nitrogen. An estimated death per year at 10% is 1.8 crores. Khadi Commission has its programme of utilising the carcass, and if the Government arrange to purchase all the manure, a large number of Flaying Centres could successfully be opened and run, thereby giving employment and producing thousands of tons of organic nitrogen, and Phosphatic manures locally, and also enhancing the food production. This is considered to be one of the important items of the Food Production Programme and should be taken up with full force. Grants and subsidies given by Government for super-phosphate should be made applicable to digested bone manure also.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES

Wells should be sunk on a large scale and construction of small *bundharas* on rivulets and *nalas,* should be taken on hand on a large scale immediately. The advantages of small *bundharas* are (1) getting the rich silt, (2) increasing subsoil water, (3) helping the farmer to have second crop of food grain and vegetable growing and thereby giving them more work for at least 3 months. This programme may be put into operation quickly and speedy results obtained. The building of small *nalas* can be taken up by the villagers as a mass programme, using stones, mud and grass.

Bunding of fields can also be taken up as a mass programme. This will help conserve more moisture, check soil erosion and enable to grow crops like Tur, Devkapas (tree cotton) and other fibre plants along the bunds.

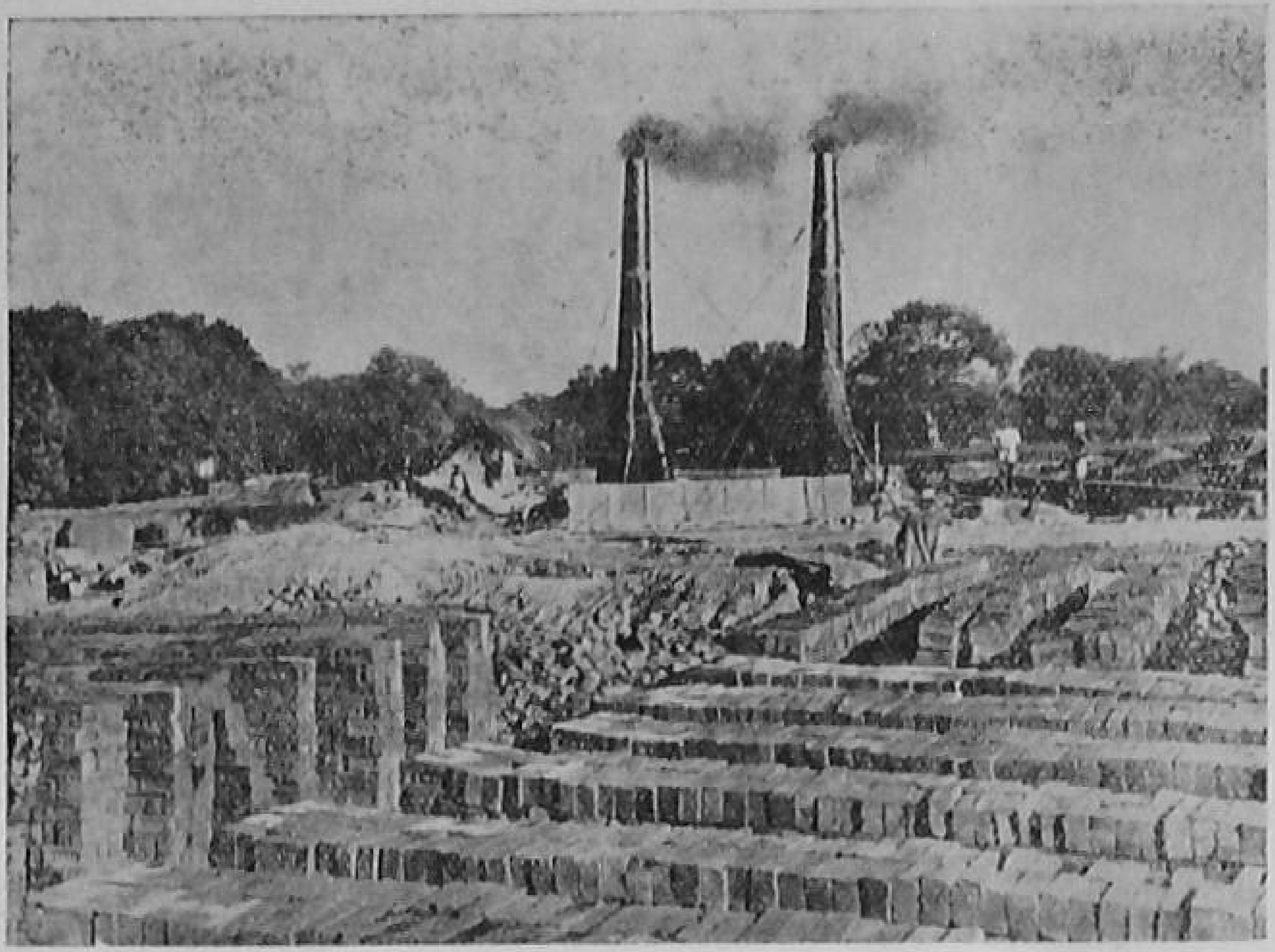
IMPROVED SEEDS

It is proposed to advocate the use of improved seeds, as far as possible as the same gives 10 to 15% more yield than the local varieties. Efforts should be made to eliminate the use of local seeds as far as possible. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO of the UNO) has fixed 1960 as the year for covering the whole area of food crops under improved varieties of seeds. It is also necessary to reduce the number of varieties of paddy in each region. At present there are hundreds of varieties of paddy which spoil the quality of rice as they are mixed up in storage and processing. The FAO has further decided to reduce the number of varieties to a minimum.

The first important item is the reduction in seeds. At present we are using about 80 lbs. of seeds per acre, but the lowest is about 1½ lbs. in Navagam (Ahmedabad) and the highest is 300 lbs. in Chikhli (Surat) per acre.

We consider that 5 lbs. seeds per acre is quite sufficient. Even if we take at 10 lbs. per acre, it means a saving of 70 lbs. of seeds

(*continued on page* 11)



A Co-operative brick-kiln in U.P.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER CO-OPERATIVES

MADAN MOHAN PRASAD SINHA
Extension Officer (Co-operation), Noamundi C.D. Block, Bihar

CO-OPERATIVES are going to play a very important role in the Community Development Programme. They will be the vehicle of many development works in the villages. It is, therefore, essential that many of the existing drawbacks of the Co-operative movement need removal before it can fully serve the villager. Neither the idea of Co-operation, nor the co-operative movement is new to our country. They are in existence for many years past. But even then the movement has not struck root. The causes of failure are many but the most important ones are the poverty and ignorance of our rural folk. Most of them neither have the means to subscribe to the share capital of the Co-operative Societies, nor the capacity to furnish security for loans they intend to take or to pay off the loans already incurred. Very few can, therefore, become active members of Co-operative Societies. And those who become members can not satisfy the terms and conditions of Co-operative borrowing. That is the reason why even lowering of the rate of interest has not encouraged the people to join Co-operative institutions in large numbers.

The rules and regulations and the accounting system of the Co-operative organisations at present are so complicated that the simple villager is hardly able to follow them.

In the initial stage of a multi-purpose Co-operative Society, the Government should subscribe to its share capital. This share capital may be considered as the shares purchased by pauper members. This will enable most of the heads of families residing within the jurisdiction of a particular Co-operative society to become its members, and give the society some sort of financial stability. The procedure of Government purchasing the share capital on behalf of the pauper members may be discontinued after a certain period, within which time it would be the aim of the society to become self-sufficient.

LOANS

The worries of our villagers, particularly the agriculturists, are many. The agricultural loans taken from the Co-operative Societies are often used in paying off old debts or meeting the expenses of costly ceremonial functions. As such the purpose of the loans is defeated.

To meet the challenge, Co-operative Societies should take in to account the various needs of the villager and make some provisions to meet them. The present policy of advancing loans should therefore take into account both the "productive" and "unproductive" purposes. While the objective of "productive purpose loans" are apparent that of the "unproductive purposes" should include redemption of old debts, and defraying the expenses in connection with marriages, births, deaths and various other social customs and rites the villager has to perform in order to continue as a member of the community. Both the "productive" and "unproductive purpose"

loans are part and parcel in the life of an agriculturist; hence one can not be treated to the exclusion of the other.

PRODUCTIVE LOANS

The division of the productive loan into short, medium and long term durations is feasible. Repayment of the loan should take into account the nature of the crop season, *i.e.*, whether it was good, bad or indifferent. In cases of extreme distress the repayments should be deferred.

UNPRODUCTIVE LOANS

Unproductive purpose loans may be termed as "Consumption Loan" and its objective can be divided into two broad heads, *i.e.*, the terms and conditions of repayment should take into account the yearly income and probable savings of the loanee and the period be fixed accordingly. This naturally calls in for an effort at voluntary compulsory savings by each family, which if undertaken vigorously would help the thrift schemes and savings drives of the Government.

SAVINGS DEPOSITS

All members must deposit a part of their income with the Society in the form of "Savings deposits" or other kinds of deposits according to the facilities available. This will develop in them a habit of economy in expenditures and measures to inculcate the habit should form part of the Social Education Programme.

The intricacies of Co-operative rules and regulations are too much for the ignorant villager to follow. He fails to understand and appreciate them, and as a result dare not join the movement. Simplification of these rules and regulations is as much necessary as the proper education in the Co-operative movement. It is necessary that those who are in charge of execution of the programme should educate the rural folk. Literature on Co-operative principles, its method of working, accounting, rules and regulations should be brought out in regional languages in a form that could be easily understood by the villagers. Daily and periodical journals should devote some space to the subject.

COURSE OF STUDY

In order to make the younger generations conversant with the principles of Co-operation, the subject of Co-operation should form a course of study in the Secondary schools. Besides a training camp at the Halqua Headquarters of each VLW should be started in each Development Block area with the assistance of the Co-operative Staff attached to the Block. In areas where there is no C.D. Block, the Asstt. Registrar of Co-operative Society, with the help of the Co-operative Staff under him should initiate the work.

So far as control and co-ordination of various Co-operative Societies in a particular area, the Block organisation should be made responsible and the finance should flow to each Co-operative Society on the recommendations of the Co-operative Extension Officer and the B. D. O. To efficiently carry out the job, the Co-operative Extension Officer should be imparted some technical training and provided with adequate staff, and their scales of pay should be on par with those of Agricultural or Veterinary staffs.

WOMEN CO-OP. SUPERVISORS

Last but not the least important is the question of associating the women folk with the movement. They are a vital force in inspiring and strengthening the Co-operative movement. The success of "Arts and Crafts" and the "Thrift Schemes" depends very much on the active participation of the women folk. Therefore, to enthuse the village women and bring them into the Co-operative fold, a Women's Co-operative Superviser needs to be appointed in each block. They will prove helpful not only in organizing "Women Guilds" and "Women Co-operatives" but accelerate the spread of Co-operative idea in the country-side.

CO-OPERATIVES IN BOMBAY

NEARLY 82 *per cent of the villages in Bombay State are covered by the co-operative movement, according to the review of the movement for the third quarter of* 1958. *During this quarter, as many as* 640 *new co-operative societies were registered in the rural areas of Bombay State, taking the total number of rural societies to* 25,988, *with a total membership of* 2,060,159 *covering* 44,432 *villages.*

A Letter From Madras

(From a Special Correspondent)

PONGAL WAS celebrated in the Second week of January and marked the coming of Spring. To celebrate the occasion fresh rice, sugarcane, jaggery and new vessels are used. *Pujah* is performed to the Sun God. The festival is otherwise known as *Sankranthi* since the day marks the entry of the Sun into *Uttarayana,* meaning the course north-ward.

Pongal, which means a sweet cooked with rice, jaggery and ghee, is a tasty dish. It is prepared at the time of the festival in new pots. Pongal also means 'overflow' referring to the boiling rice and milk in every day life. Besides, the festival is celebrated during harvest season. It is the time of the year that brings peace to the householder who stores enough rice and paddy to last him a full year.

While dedicating the day to Pongal festivities, the village folk do not forget their cattle that had kept company with them throughout the year. In appreciation of the services rendered by them through the harvesting season and in recognition of the cow as the *Kamadhenu*—the dispenser of prosperity—the *Mattu Pongal* is celebrated. Early in the morning the animals are given a ceremonial dip in the river or the pond. Their horns are scrapped and painted in multi-colours. The lady of the house takes care of the cows. She adorns the head of the cow with tumeric and *Kumkum*. Their horns are decorated with flowers. The *Purohit* offers *pujah* to them and they are given the tasty dish of Pongal. In the evening the animals are let loose. Small calves are taken care of by the youngsters. Around the horns of the strong and ferocious bulls small bags containing cash are tied. These bulls are driven and let loose in the fields and anybody who succeeds in stopping them gets the money.

CO-OP. FARMING

The Finance Minister of the Madras State declared recently that it was not right or proper to oppose all land reforms because they visualised co-operative effort. Such opposition would only bring harm to the country. Co-operative farming, as a method of increasing agricultural production, was now in the air, he said. It was true that at one time individual big landlords helped to preserve sound agricultural economy in our country. But present trends showed that this was no longer possible and co-operative had to enter the field. The lands might belong to individual holders but the requisites to carry out agricultural operations could be secured from co-operatives. In what manner co-operative farming or methods of co-operation in stepping up agriculture could be utilised would all be matters for co-operators to decide.

The Madras Minister revealed that till now they had established 300 village banks in the State. There were in some States large-sized societies serving groups of 20 to 30 villages, but these did not work satisfactorily. He, for one felt that societies could be established one for each village, but in regard to loan transactions there could be one for four or five small villages.

DESHI MANURE

Presiding over a three-day Seminar on Development of Local Manurial Resources, Shri M. V. Krishnappa, Union Deputy Minister for Agriculture, pleaded for a comprehensive programme of utilisation of local manurial resources for increased agricultural productivity.

The Minister said owing to tight foreign exchange position and inadequate internal production, they were not able to meet the demand of chemical fertilizers. "We have, therefore, tried to make up the deficiency to the maximum extent possible by conserving and utilizing the locally available manurial resources."

Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Madras Agriculture Minister, said intensive development of local organic manures, including wastes, was the need of the day. He said 3,000 selected farmers had been trained in compost work and another 2,500 were being trained.

The Prime Minister in his message to the seminar, said the development of local manurial resources was of "high importance" to the country. Too much attention had been paid to chemical fertilisers and not enough to various types of local measures. In the campaign for greater agricultural production, local manures should form an important part, Shri Nehru said. In particular, the Community Development and NES blocks should lay emphasis on them.

Youth Camps

C. R. RATHEE

THE VALUE of camp life in character and personality formation is clear. A camper learns to be resourceful and self-sufficient, and to live in close fellowship and brotherhood with others. The intimate life of the camp, with its demands of initiative, mutual accommodation and unselfishness quickly reveals unsuspected faults and unexpected virtues among the campers. In a camp, more than anywhere else, punctuality, cleanliness and neatness are essential. Community thinking and community living become permanent features of the camper's personality. The most lasting value of a camp is that the campers set before the village-folk the example of doing community service, in which the service of the self is inherent. In the hearts of the conservating and tradition-loving villagers, a silent revolution can thus be brought about.

To organise and run a camp demands a great deal of thought and energy and much practical knowledge and experience. The most important thing is the selection of camp site and the Chief Camp Officer on whose ability depends the success of the camp. During my visit to various B.S.S. camps during the last winter holidays, I found certain Chief Camp Officer threatening to arrest some one, if he did not behave properly. The inmates of another camp, besides other activities, had constructed more than a hundred smokeless Chulahs but their own kitchen was adorned with a 'Smokeful' Chulah. The rules of hygiene and sanitation were not observed. The drinking water was neither boiled nor covered. The place of washing kitchen utensils was stinking badly. Another thing which I noticed was that the officials of the B.S.S. did not mix up with the campers as Sevaks. The attitude of 'superiority' and inferiority' could be easily seen from their behaviour.

SOME SUGGESTIONS

A month before the camp is held, the camp site should be selected by a committee consisting of the Secretary, District Camp Committee, the Chief Camp Officer designate, the Gram Sevak, the Headmaster or Headmistress of the local school, the Sarpanch, the village Doctor etc. When the site has been selected, a local camp committee composed of influential villagers should be set up. This will give the villagers the impression that the camp is their own. Strict observance of rules of hygiene and sanitation should be enforced.

The most neglected aspect of our camp organisation is the follow-up programme. All that we achieve during camp days is of little utility, if the "follow-up" work is not pursued. In 1956, as an N.C.C. officer I participated in a Labour and Social Service camp held near Rohtak. We did earth work on two approach roads and dug a huge tank. By now, these roads should have been metalled and the tank made pucca. But to our disappointment, the 'tank' is a swine-pool and the roads are heaps of sand. Similar examples can be multiplied. So the follow-up programme is even more important than the camp itself.

For assessing the progress of the 'follow-up', rallies may be organised at frequent intervals where the follow-up programme should be supplemented by the latest demands of the community. One such rally was held on 6th January, 1959 at Kablana, a village 35 miles west of Delhi.

The most serious lacuna is the lack of co-ordination among various development departments as well as between the Government-sponsored development bodies and voluntary organisations. This has got to be removed if the efforts of voluntary organisations are to succeed. B.S.S. now-a-days are holding a number of youth camps, so also many of the Governmental bodies. The objective in most of the cases are Similar, *i.e.*, to rouse the community spirit of the rural masses.

BIHAR PANCHAYATS MANAGE FORESTS

J. N. Sinha

COMMUNITY or village forest is a forest which is adjacent to or sandwitched between populous villages. The villagers within whose village boundaries the forest is situated generally have the right to take free of charge whatever forest produce they may need for their bonafide domestic or agricultural purposes. The demand generally exceeds supply so the entire produce is taken away by the rightholders free of charge and even then quite commonly they do not get enough. The Government spends money for the up-keep and management but gets little or no revenue. Out of total forest area of 12,000 sq. miles in the State of Bihar, approximately about 3,000 sq. miles will answer the description of community forest.

Although the rightholders take away the entire annual produce, they have no feeling of obligation towards the forest and do not willingly or actively co-operate in its conservation. Having taken whatever is available in the annual coupe, they still feel no compunction in surreptitiously helping themselves by stealing by day or by night. Forest is a property that cannot be locked up in rooms or in iron safes and with the trees scattered over the landscape, the Government can never put up sufficient guard against theft and destruction if the local people are out to cut and destroy. Having started with this premises we arrive at the inescapable conclusion that means must be found to win over the co-operation of the people which at present is not in evidence. In respect of these community or village forests it has become almost a losing battle to try and save them in the conditions of antagonism and lack of co-operation of the local population. Government âre spending a substantial sum of money and getting little or no revenue. Forest produce worth over 66 lakhs of rupees is annually given away to the rightholders and still there is dissatisfaction against the Government and grievances are heard all over that the people are not being given sufficient timber and firewood. It has also to be admitted that the local Forest Guards often take advantage of the given conditions of intense demand and some of them yield to the temptation and make illegal gain by adding to the destruction of the forest. The local people do not interfere with the Forest Guard illegally selling forest produce, firstly because they have no love for the forest beyond their takings and secondly, if they do interfere, the Forest Guard may harass them by putting in false cases against them in the court. Thus the forest lies prostrate before the people and before the dishonest ones of the Forest Guards over whom supervision cannot be made so thorough as to physically restrain them on all occasions. In the areas of Kuru and Mandar of Ranchi district there have been recent cases of outside people stealing poles in truckloads by night and obviously with the connivance of the forest staff and some of the local people.

NEW EXPERIMENT

The existing position is thus one of embarrassment to the Government and to the administrators of the Forest Department because while on one hand there is among the people needless antagonism and suspicion of the Government and to the adminis- other the forest is in varying degrees being destroyed. A change in the psychological setup and in the method of management is clearly indicated. Management through Panchayat will create, as it is already creating in the experimental zones, a feeling of ownership among the people and love for the property. Once the people begin to feel that the forest is their own property, although under the overall management of the Government, and that the benefits of conservation and the evils of destruction will fall to their share they will take active interest in its protection. The Forest Guard working not independently as now with the Panchayat will be shorn of his opportunities to illegally sell forest produce for his own gain. There are frequent complains of harassment by Forest Guards which will be obviated when the Forest Guard will send up his cases and reports through the Panchayat who will have opportunities to ascertain facts and to challenge false reports. Panchayat system of management will ensure cooperation and that is the backbone of conservation of such

forests. With the management in the hands of Panchayat the people will have no grievances against the Government even if they suffer privations as in the deficit areas. Cost of management will also be cheap and there will be considerable saving of expense to the Government.

Already there are certain indications available from the experiment launched on the 24th May 1958, in Mandar and Kuru Thanas of Ranchi district. The Development Commissioner visited Mandar the other day and was agreeably surprised at the evidence of enthusiasm on all sides. One Panchayat Mukhiya said "We are now experiencing some difficulties in getting all the timber and firewood that we need". He was thereupon asked why it was so when the management now lay in their own hands. His reply was revealing—"We formerly helped ourselves with stealing here and there but now when the property is ours how can we steal our own timber or destroy our own forest?".

An alternative of limited application outlined below has been suggested but has not been put to the test. It is here being set out for information.

Where there are no Panchayats or are not of a standard to be entrusted with forest management or where again the forests are scattered in such small patches from village to village that the coupe system of management may not normally be applied and surplus from the right-holders' needs is not likely to be built up in the foreseeable future, the alternative suggestion is to buy out the rights, which in the given conditions are ineffective, and then to settle the forests in suitable lots with individuals in permanent lease like land subject to periodic and conditional renewal. Such individuals may be required to pay up in convenient instalments an amount equivalent to the compensation necessary to buy out the rights. They will thereafter be required to maintain and develop the forest patches in accordance with the land use plan to be prescribed by the Forest Department. It is expected that such derelict lots will in time develop into farm forests or horticultural blocks under the care of the individual and the Government will not have to maintain any watch and ward service. The Forest Department will provide technical assistance and may in addition give such subsidy and aid as is available in cases of grow more food schemes. Such lots, seemingly destined to vanish if left to themselves, may in the case of individuals so develop in course of time as to substantively relieve the local pressure on timber and fuel requirements.

KEY VILLAGE SCHEME

The above, which represent cent per cent achievement of the target, is revealed in the annual report on the working of the Key Village Scheme sponsored by the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The All India Key Village Scheme covering all aspects of cattle improvement such as disease control and marketing breeding, feeding, management, aims at increasing milk production and working efficiency of cattle population in the country.

Breeding operations in Key Village Blocks sought to evolve superior breed of cattle through selective breeding. A total of 2,39,210 insemination and 77,802 natural services were performing during the year under review. This covered over 36% of the total cow and buffalo population. The report, however, points out that heavy concentration of cattle and inadequate grazing facilities in the rural areas seriously impair the milking capacity and working efficiency of our cattle. Under the Scheme, concerted effort is being made to improve these conditions.

For eliminating scrub bulls, it was found possible to perform 82,323 castrations, inspite of a certain amount of public sentiment against this. Effective measures were also taken to prevent the incidence of contagious and infectious diseases among the cattle in the Key Village Blocks.

A model scheme for developing feeds and fodder in Key Village Blocks was finalised and circulated to the States.

Foreign assistance was advantageously utilised for tackling some of the basic problems of cattle improvement. Under the T.C.M. Aid Programme 478 artificial insemination sets were acquired and distributed to the States for utilisation in the existing Key Village Blocks.

TESTS OF SELF-RELIANCE

ALLOTMENT OF the next series of pre-extension blocks and conversion of the existing pre-extension blocks into stage I are to be determined by certain tests of self-reliance and self-help shown by the people of a new area, or of an existing block. This follows a recent decision by the Central Committee.

Simple standards of performance laid down as pre-requisites for launching the Community Development programme in any new area, or for continuing in an existing block, include : 1) Fair evidence of cleanliness and sanitation in a village; 2) Number of compost pits dug and used; 3) Extent of coverage by Panchayats and the degree of responsibility for development programme shouldered by them; 4) Extent of coverage by co-operatives and the degree to which credit and supplies are channelised through them; and 5) Any other criterion to be laid down by the State Government having regard to local conditions.

These are intended as tests and also to ensure continuous self-help and self-reliance on the part of the people. The procedure outlined to achieve this purpose, envisages that before an area is taken up as pre-extension block, advance notice is given to the villages in the proposed block area that self-help and self-reliance on the part of the people would be tested by certain criteria as may be laid down by the State Government after considering the level of development of the area.

The Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation had asked the State Governments to ensure that throughout the period of operation of a block, the tempo of the people's self-reliance was kept up. If a pre-extension block did not satisfy the tests, it would continue to function only as a pre-extension block until it came up to the standards.

PANCHAYATS

The 'local works' portion of the schematic budget of a stage I or stage II block, which would be transferred to Panchayats for planning and implementation under the guidance and approval of the Block Development Committee would be allotted by the Block Development Committee every year only to such Panchayats which showed a good record in these fields.

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MEANS AND ENDS

There is no wall of separation between means and ends. Indeed the Creator has given us control (and that too very limited) over means, none over the end.—GANDHIJI.

HIGH POTENCY MANURES

(*continued from page 4*)

per acre. Calculating the value of the seeds at Rs. 10 per maund (although the price is between Rs. 15 and 17) India would be able to save not less than Rs. 75 crores per year or about 25 lakhs tons of seeds. It may be mentioned here that reduction in quantity of seeds helps to get healthy seedlings and it helps to increase the production automatically, as the manure, air and space available to each seedling to grow is more than what each seedling would get when large number of them are planted closely. Fewer seedlings allow easy weeding and interculturing, getting more tillers and larger yield.

If the seeds are put in saline mixture, the solid healthy seeds will sink to the bottom and those which are not likely to germinate will float on the top. This method will assure at least 95% seeds germinating. One of the reasons for our using larger quantity of seeds is that germination percentage is low.

We have neglected an important food crop which has the potentialities of giving a filip to our food production programme; we mean sweet potato. In China and Japan this is grown in a very large measure, and the production is used in the people's daily diet thereby augmenting the daily foodtake. This crop can be easily cultivated in Kharif season and in other seasons also where irrigation facilities exist.

It is suggested that the Government depots should make available good quantity seed cuttings of Sweet Potato to the farmers and also help them by giving some attractive incentives.

MARCH of TIME

AS SEEN BY OUR CARTOONIST

CULTIVATE RICE IN THE SOCIALIST PATTERN!
JAPANESE METHOD
BE SUITABLE FOR FISHERIES, BUT WE ARE ALL STRICT VEGETARIANS!
FISHERIES
ALREADY SHOCKS ELECTRICITY LAMP ENOUGH ME!
MY HUSBAND DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME LOVE FOR ME EVER SINCE HE BECAME GRAM SAHAYAK — SAYS HE LOVES THE COMMUNITY MORE THAN THE INDIVIDUAL!

GHOGHA

A. S. SHARMA

GHOGHA today hums with life. People are united and keen to improve the village which seven years ago was backward and lifeless. This village, only 22 miles from Delhi, hardly had any contact with the world outside. No road connected it to the main thoroughfare ; the villagers as a result lead a life in isolation. The people are simple and honest, but very conservative. Even though there was a primary school in the village, the inhabitants never liked to send their children to it. There was no community spirit, no body thought of improving the condition of the village. The streets were dirty, and the drains were full of filth.

Then one day, seven years ago, one of the villagers, Chowdhry Roshan Lal, happened to listen to the talk of Prime Minister Sri Nehru. He thought over the speech for a day or two and then decided to pledge himself for the development of Ghogha.

The village should no more remain in isolation, he thought. It should be linked up with the outer world, he decided. A linkroad was essential, and should be constructed,—he planned. It was easier to plan than to execute it. The difficulties were many. Ghogha,like most of our villages, was faction—ridden. There were too many differences, too many parties, and too many leaders. No two leaders thought in the same way. All these were known to Roshan Lal. But he was determined to act up to the advice of the Prime Minister. He approached the B.D.O. with the plan of constructing the two and a half mile long link-road. The B.D.O. was not only glad, but was too eager to help. The help was assured immediately. Then came the question of making the villagers agree to the plan, and help in its execution.

A meeting of the villagers was arranged, in which the B.D.O. and the Chowdhry explained the objectives of the plan. "The link-road if constructed would remove the age-long barrier between Ghogha and the outside world, and would facilitate free flow of modern ideas and amenities"—the audience was told. Appeals were made to the people to sink their differences and work together as brothers for the betterment of the village as well as of themselves. The older sections of the audiences doubted the Speaker and were hesitant to extend their help and co-operation. But many amongst the younger section acted spontaneously and came forward to help. The point of 50 per cent governmental aid for road construction and all local works appealed to them most.

But there was still another big hurdle to be crossed. That was the land needed for the link-road. The road was to pass through the holdings of many villagers. Unless they parted with those portions of their lands the road could not be constructed. Again another meeting was called, and an appeal was made to the village leaders and the land owners to donate the required portions of their holdings for the common good. The seed of community of spirit that was sown in the earlier meeting sprouted in this one. There were many who joined with Roshan Lal in the

Link road that now connects Ghogha with the world outside

appeal. But no decision was arrived at. It required much persuasion and pleading. Many group discussions and general meetings were held subsequently. Ultimately most of the villagers agreed to part with the required land from their holdings. But there were still quite a few who kept aloof and watched.

The work, thereafter, was started with full vigour. A sum of Rs. 33,200 was contributed in the form of cash and kind, besides the Shramdan. The day of completion of the road was a great occasion for the village. As the first bullock cart rolled along the road *en route* to Delhi, shouts of joy went up into the sky. Those who doubted the scheme came forward and joined with the enthusiasts.

There after it was the story of more and more of community action. A village development council was formed, and Chowdhry Roshan Lal was the unanimous choice for its presidenship. The village streets were paved. Three model wells were constructed. Ventilators were provided in the houses. Five rooms were added to the existing primary school. One children's park, one community centre, one post literacy centre and one youth club has been opened.

The villagers have now taken to improved farming practices and many to poultry development. Both the village tanks are now full of fingerlings. Thirty acres of wasteland have been reclaimed. The standard of living of the villagers has improved.

Ghogha has now become a show piece of the Block.

TWO VILLAGES

LOKANATH NAYAK

S.E.O., Chhatrapur, Orissa Block

"THE SPIRIT of Community Development work is very contagious. One has only to rouse the spirit. The rest is an easy affair for the Block staff. People will, of their own accord, come to you and ask for more help and more aid", said the Extension Officer at the Block Headquarters. Hardly any body believed what he said. But my experience in Khariguda and Kinjiri, the two Adivasi inhabited villages of Gudari C.D. Block has convinced me that the E.O. was right.

Members of Yuvak Sangh happy over the bumper crop

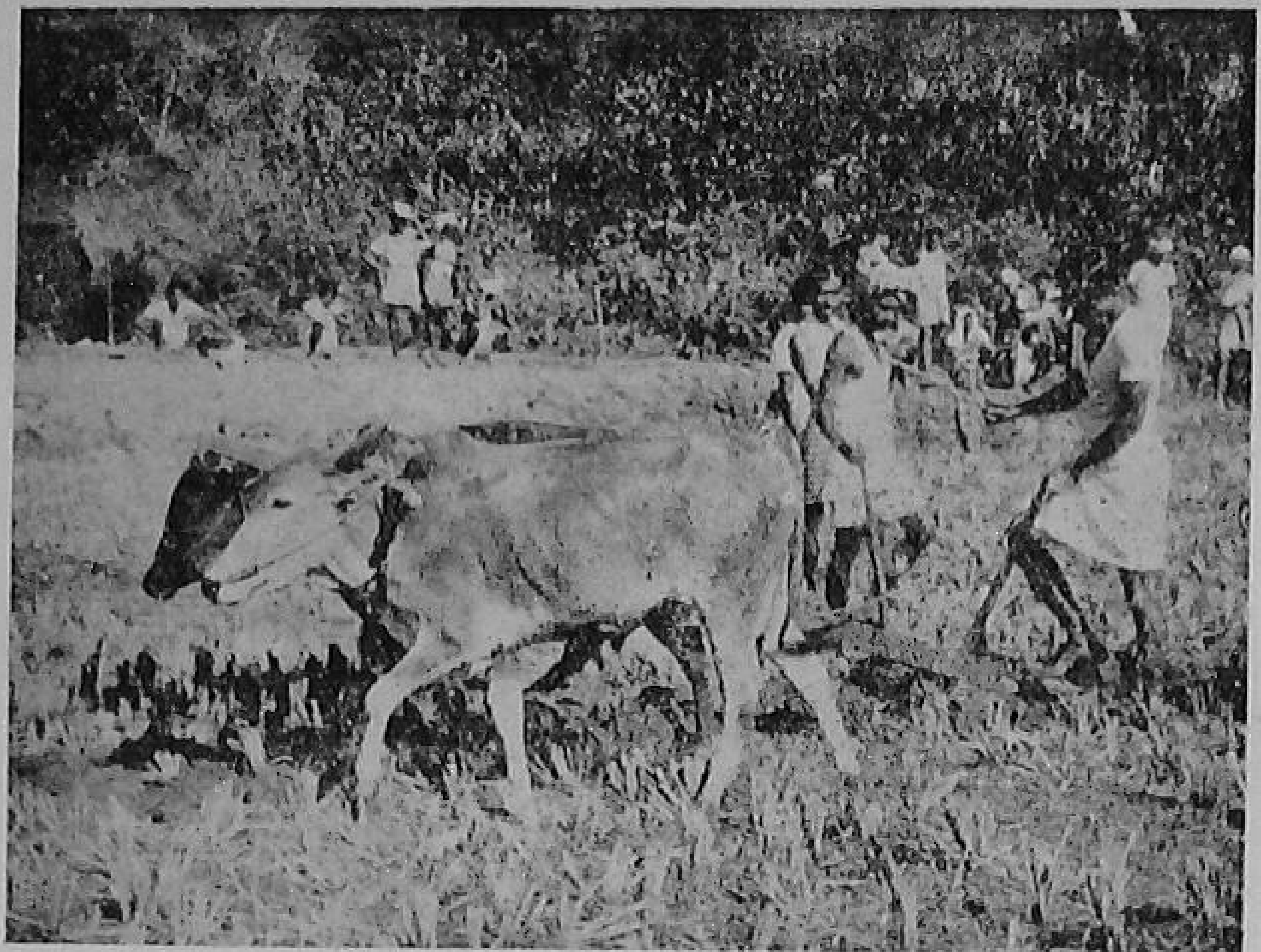
These two tiny villages in the remote interior of Gudari Block are practically cut off from the rest of the world. Dense jungle stands in between the villages and the outside world. Khariguda located on a hill top is 20 miles north-east of Gudari—the Block Headquarters. Generations of exploitation by Kumutties, the moneylending class, have rendered the people extremely poor. Except the Gomang—the village headman, and one or two inhabitants, the rest have no land of their own. Poddu or shifting cultivation is their only means of livelihood. They lived mostly on the fruits and roots of the jungle Poverty, disease, ignorance and constant harassment by the Kumutties were the maladies of the villagers.

During his first visit to Khariguda, after the block was inaugurated in October 1955, the Gram Sevak was non-plussed to see the problems of the villagers. He did not know how and where to start his work. He started tackling problems which he could solve without much difficulty. His first-aid box became his main tool of contacting the villagers.

In no time he became a son to the old and a brother to the younger section. They heard him patiently when he spoke about some development work.

Drinking water was one of the main problems of the village. The village had no well. His first task was to have a well dug in the village. The villagers co-operated wholeheartedly and a *pucca* well was constructed in no time. The water problem was solved. Kinjiri village also had the same problem. When the Gram Sevak, in the first instance had asked them to go in for a well, they had refused. But after Khariguda had its well, Kinjiri villagers approached the Block staff for help to dig a well. The help was given forthwith, and Kinjiri also had its own well. Kinjiri now emulates what Khariguda does. Khariguda by now

(*continued on page* 22)



Ploughing Demonstration

CHHATRAPURA TRAINING CENTRE

THE CHHATRAPURA training centre, seven miles from Kotah, is today engaged in imparting training to the multi-purpose village extension workers. At present 123 trainees are being imparted training in integrated course of two years.

This training centre has so far released 12 batches of Extension workers numbering 813, after imparting them general training and 256 trainees in Agriculture. From 17th November, 1958 an integrated course of two years has been started. At present there are 81 trainees in the second year, 42 in the first year class.

Earlier the Gram Sevak trainees were given a stipend of Rs. 30 per month during the period of their extension training and Rs. 30 per month in basic Agriculture stage. Now all the trainees are paid stipend of Rs. 40 per month for a period of two years.

The candidates for integrated training course are also recruited in each District by a Committee consisting of the Collector, District Agricultural Officer, Dy. Inspector of schools, a representative of Bharat Sewak Samaj or in its absence a local M.L.A. and the Block Development Officer of one of the Blocks of the area. The candidates having a rural bias and possessing agricultural land is given preference. For about 1½ months, the trainees are kept under observation at the Training Centre and during this period they have to undergo outdoor and endurance tests like spade-work, cycling, handling of agricultural implements, cooking, etc. If they qualify in the outdoor tests they appear in the indoor text like story writing, group discussion etc. Those who qualify in both are ultimately admitted for training.

The course of studies for these trainees includes detailed agriculture including Horticulture and Agricultural Engineering, Dairy and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Scheme. In Agriculture apart from crop husbandry they are also taught other allied things such as different types of soils, their formation and characteristics, soil ability to various crops etc., manures and fertilizers, plant protection and other topics of practical nature. They are also trained in Public Health and Village Sanitation, Co-operatives and Panchayats, Social Education, Extension, Cottage Industries and Civil Engineering.

The trainees learn minor repair work of implements in the workshop of this centre. The handling and maintenance of machinery like tractors and pumps are also taught. The practical training also includes the extension work in the villages. Hitherto the trainees were sent in batches to different blocks of Rajasthan for a period of 4 weeks. Two V.L.W. trainees were attached with one Gram Sevak and they worked as apprentices. Now this system has been changed. The trainees go round some selected villages for two days in a fortnight in batches for their field training. At the end of the term of training they are sent to the Blocks for ten weeks at a stretch to work as apprentice Gram Sevaks.

Some of the trainees of one year course have also been attached to such progressive farmers whose fields are near the training centre. They will work

on their fields and do all the operations with their own hands along with the farmers. For the present the arrangement has been made as an experimental basis and only a small number of trainees are allotted this type of job. Later on if and when the system proves useful, large numbers of trainees will be given similar assignments.

The trainees in a group of four at the camps have been allotted different projects like milking, cleaning of sheds, feeding the animals and poultry birds, maintenance of flower beds and gardens etc. Assessment will be made of each group on the merit of its performance.

During their stay in the villages, they study the practical problems and their solutions, lay-out of demonstrations, the use of soak and urine pits and hold social and adult education classes. They distribute literature and display-charts, flannel graphs and other audio-visual material.

During the course of their training, they also learn the working of various types of Co-operative Societies and Panchayats, and attend their meetings in the village and study the various records maintained. In the extension training centre itself a multi-purpose co-operative society is functioning which apart from supplying the food stuffs and other provisions, cater to the everyday requirements of the trainees and maintain 18 cycles for their use. This society is run purely by students themselves under the guidance of the Co-operative Panchayat Officer attached to this centre.

Palm Trees and Planning

Y. BHASKARA RAO

S.E.O. Mirzapur Block
Andhra Pradesh

TALL AND SLENDER palm trees, rising to heights of 50 to 60 ft. are a common sight in the South. They are found all over the Deccan Plateau. Stately in appearance, they add beauty and colour to the countryside. They are an asset to the villager.

Palm trees grow luxuriantly on loose and soft soils. Very little attention is required for their growth and maintenance. They are multi-purpose by nature. To the agriculturists, the hollowed trunk comes handy as natural pipes for carrying water to the fields and gardens. In lift irrigation, the transverse section of the hollowed trunk plays a vital role. Known as *Yetamu* it lifts water from tanks and water troughs to the fields. But its major use is in building houses. The trunk of the tree cut to size serves as pillars, posts, beams, girders, door frames and planks for shutters. Another common use of the trunk is in the construction of culverts and small bridges across irrigation water channels and *nullahs* which criss cross the countryside. The cost involved in these constructions is very little. Palm leaves are often used for thatching purposes. A Palm leaf thatched roof continues for more than two years without any major repair.

Palm trees are better known all over the country for the delicious health giving juice *Neera* it produces. *Neera* extraction is the major job for a section of the village population. Fermented *Neera* is known as Toddy (Kullu). Jaggery and sugar pieces known as *Kalakanda* are also prepared from this juice. The uses of the fruit are many. When green, the kernel known as *Manjalu* serves as a delicious eatable. The chaffed off-pieces of the fruit is a nutritive cattle food especially for the milch cows and buffaloes. When ripe, the fruit yields a sweet, viscous juice rich in food value. Village women prepare a variety of snacks and pastries from it. The sprouts of the germinating seeds are very tasty to eat and is known as *Tegalu*. At the apex of the stem is a juicy white substance called *Gunju* which is palatable and nourishing.

The part played by the palm tree in village industries is important. The stout stalk (Matta) of the leaf is the source of a fibre which goes into rope making. These ropes are extensively used by the villagers for different iobs. The leaf also plays a very important role in village industries. Right from the making of umbrellas, often used by the village folk, we get such other products as baskets, hand fans, light and fashionable handbags, widely used mats, partitions and door screens. A variety of furnitures and household goods like cots, paddy frames, racks and benches etc. are made out of the trunk.

LEST WE FORGET

R. NARAYAN

Co-operative Sub-Registrar,
Pondicherry

THE CO-OPERATION movement in India, is about to face its greatest crisis. The movement has faced a series of crisis from its very inception—official indifference, mismanagement, economic depression and so on. It has withstood all these crises and has grown quite strong. However, the crisis that it has to face today is entirely different and opposite to what it had to face so far and hence is far more dangerous.

Ever since Independence, the Central Government has realised the importance of the movement and has been extending a number of privileges to the movement. With the linking of Co-operation with Community Development, the hastening of various land reforms and the intention of the Government to trade in foodgrains, it may definitely be said that apart from the privileges, the movement will have to shoulder some very heavy responsibilities in the near future.

It has been decided that the future agricultural society should be of the smaller type enabling the movement to have a real, down-to-earth contact with the people. No one can deny the soundness of the principles involved in this policy. With various privileges in credit, fertiliser distribution, etc. which has been of late extended to these agricultural service Co-operatives, almost every village in India will have such a society by the Third Plan period. That means, that there will be more than 5 lakhs of agricultural societies which will have to be guided and run properly by the non-officials and officials of the Co-operative movement. Certainly, a responsibility of vast magnitude.

While the smallness of these societies will enable them to have real contact with the people, their size will successfully prevent them from tackling large scale production, processing, marketing and supplying of goods. For this, the movement will have to provide facilities through specialised societies at district, State and Central levels. It will have to be remembered that while thousands of diverse agencies have been attending to these activities all these centuries, the movement will have to set in motion an entirely new set-up within a very short time and in the face of very stiff opposition.

With the hastening of various land reforms, the movement will have to prove the success of co-operative farming also in a short time. Apart from the work involved in ordinary societies, a farming society will have to devise suitable norms to gauge the work done by its members, keep them contented and also prove that farming is economical and production better, qualitatively and quantitatively. Here, there will not only be opposition from outside but also from within.

With the intention of the Government to trade in food grains another gauntlet has been thrown in. The Co-operatives will certainly be expected to process, and market the foodgrains of at least their members. Again an efficient machinery will have to be set up in a short time and prove itself equal to the task.

Production and marketing activities leads distribution to consumers in different areas. The Co-operatives will have to pitch upon such prices as will satisfy the producer but also keep the consumer contented. For this, they will require, besides organisational set-up, efficient supply lines which the movement will have to maintain. The Western Co-operatives have demonstrated that while sound economics can be effected by them; not by paying lower wages in the distributive trades, but by effecting a continuous and orderly movement of goods from the producer to the consumer, can be hoarded up at different points (paddy wholesaler, miller, rice wholesaler and retailer) and its price increased unnecessarily and want only whereas the Co-operatives can pay a good price to the long neglected producer and also sell at a reasonable price to an equally long suffering consumer by effecting a continuous and orderly supply. This will be another Herculean task which will have to be tackled successfully.

Next in importance to food is clothing, housing and other amenities. So far co-operation has concerned itself about particular items of these problems, for example, it has been concerned more about weavers than about clothing in general. It has also not made much headway in tackling housing problems as a whole and in the provision of other

(*continued on page* 19)

Deep Ploughing of Land

(Reproduced from China To-day)

FOREIGNERS visiting the communes always want to know how immense expanses of farmland are ploughed to depths between up to three feet or even more. Ploughing to such depths is rarely attempted even on experimental farms in other countries.

The other day I saw how the farmers do it in Nanma village. Some 2,000 men were spread out over a vast tract of land as flat as a lake. They were young and husky men from 34 villages that recently merged to become the Tung Feng (East Wind) People's Commune. In a very short time they would finish ploughing all the 135 hectares of land for Nanma village. The job would never get done if left to the people of Nanma village alone.

The men who sang and cracked jokes as they worked did not use ploughs. Their main implement was the spade. Usually groups of five to seven men worked together. Great care was taken not to turn organic topsoil under as this would result in low yields instead of high ones. It was loessial soil and no rocks could be found even 20 feet under ground.

This is how deep ploughing is done. At the start a straight trench is dug across the field. Earth is shovelled to the right side of the trench. When a depth of one foot is reached, the subsoil at the bottom of the trench is loosened to more than one foot deep with a spade. The loosened subsoil is left at the bottom of the trench. After all the subsoil at the bottom has been loosened, one foot thick of topsoil on the left side of the trench is put into it. This forms the top layer of the future ploughed field. When the topsoil has been shovelled in, the exposed subsoil below it is loosened to more than one foot and the topsoil on the left is shovelled over it.

The operation is repeated until the whole field is ploughed more than two feet deep.

From Nanma this "deep ploughing" brigade of the East Wind Commune will move on to other villages until all communes' land, which will be sown to crops in the coming spring, is turned over.

The East Wind Commune also employs some tractors for deep ploughing. Machines that used to haul several plough shares, can do more than one foot deep when fitted with one share.

Agronomists of the experimental farm in Ankuo recently dug out some wheat plants to see what effect deep ploughing had on them. The plants sown on land ploughed five inches deep were found to have roots only 1.1 feet long after two months of growth. Those planted on land ploughed four feet deep have roots five feet long after the same period of growth. Wheat plants growing on land turned up eight feet deep were found to have roots, 7 to 8 feet long two-and-a-half months after sowing.

Superb heavy yields of wheat, maize, cotton and other crops were reaped by Ankuo farmers last year from heavily fertilised and closely planted, deep ploughed fields. Wheat harvests averaging seven-and-a-half to 15 tons per hectare were reaped over a big area of deep ploughed land. A *mou* of experimental land ploughed three feet deep yielded more than two-and-a-half tons of wheat grain. Sixty tons of manure, 143 kilogrammes of chemical fertiliser and 615,000 seeds were used on this small plot of land equivalent to only one-fifteenth hectare.

It has been found that deep ploughed land can continue to give heavy yields for three successive years, after which it has to be reploughed.

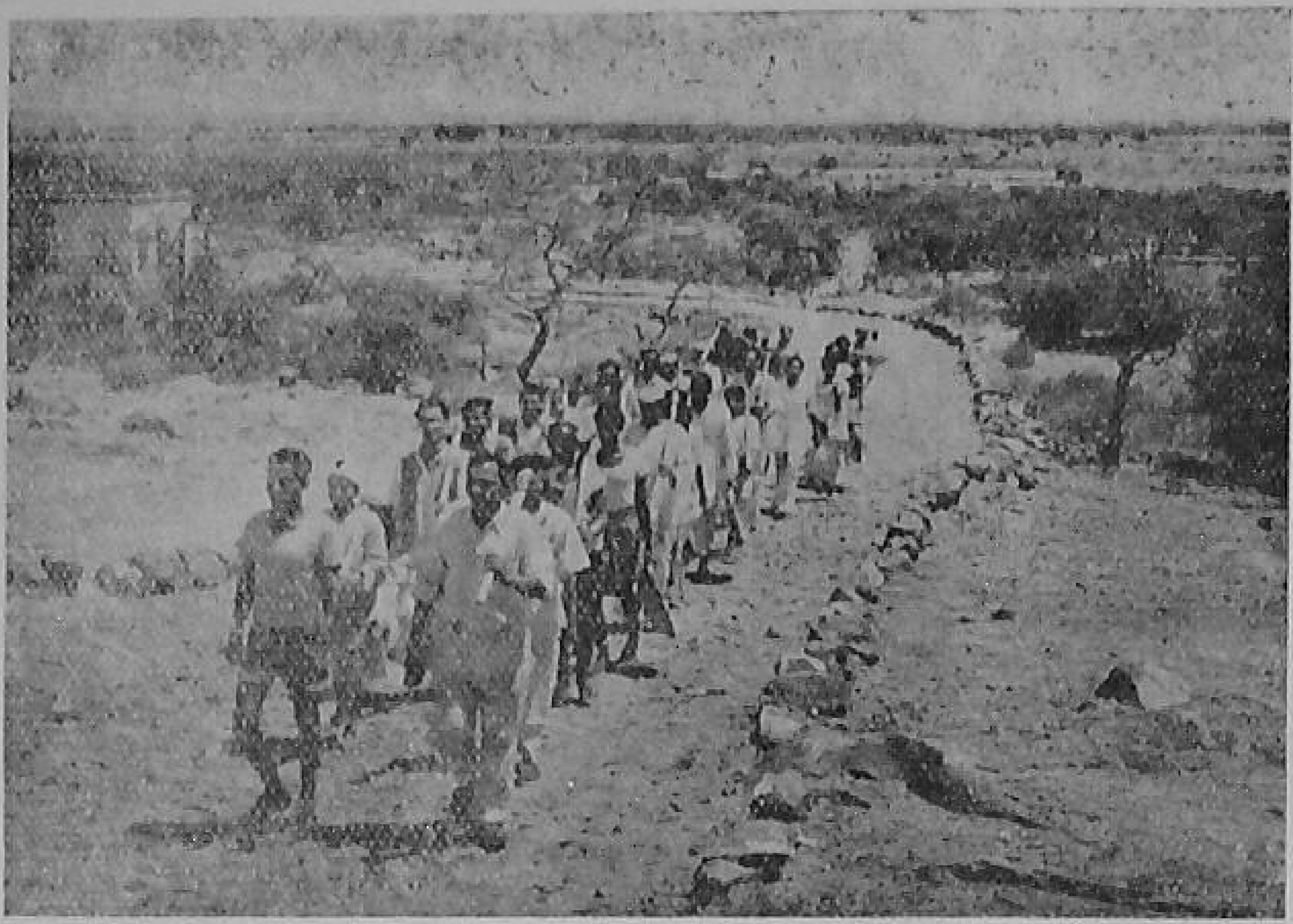
(By Hsinhua Special Correspondent in China To-day)

LEST WE FORGET

(continued from page 18)

amenities to the public. A dynamic approach to all these problems is hereafter necessary.

With more and more attention being focused on the movement, the Co-operators may feel complacent and tend to bask in the sunshine of special privileges that is now being extended to them. The warm sunshine is only a prelude to stormier times ahead. If the movement fails to forge ahead at this juncture, it may be relegated to a more obscure corner from the one from which it has emerged only recently. Let us not forget that in a socialist society, the State can always compete successfully or even take over many of the functions that Co-operative movement and private enterprise are now engaged in.



Returning from a Gram Pracharaks Camp in a village near Delhi

PROGRAMME PATTERN

MORE THAN half of rural India has been covered by the community development programme in the past six years since its inception. The benefits of the scheme are now being derived by over fifteen crore people living in more than three lakh villages. up to the end of September last, Rs. 103 crores were spent on the various projects of rural uplift under the programme. People's contributions in the shape of cash, kind and labour have been valued at about Rs. 66 crores—about 64 per cent of the total expenditure under the scheme.

ROLLING SHIELD

THE GOVERNMENT has accepted the recommendation of the sub-committee of the Rural Development Board to institute a State Rolling Sheild to be awarded to the best Block on the basis of "physical achievements". The Shield whose value will be Rs. 250 will be awarded to the development block which gets the highest composite index number. All Blocks except those which have not completed a one-year period of operation, will be eligible for participation in this scheme. The Government has already instituted a scheme of prize competition in order to provide encouragement for really meritorious work among village level workers.

ONE MILLION

THE U.P. GOVERNMENT has drawn up a plan to train one million Gram Sahayaks for the next kharif campaign, it is learnt. During the last rabi campaign, the State had trained 2½ lakhs of Gram Sahayaks. With the rabi sowings the intensive phase of 1958 is over. The programme for 1959 is to make intensive and sustained efforts to attain, among other things, "saturation point" in the Japanese method of paddy cultivation in all irrigated paddy and all late paddy areas and U.P. method of wheat cultivation in all irrigated wheat areas in the State. The Training of Gram Sahayaks will begin from February.

SCHEMATIC

TO CHANGE the Panchayats and other village institutions with the responsibility for planning and executing developmental schemes, the schematic budget of the developmental blocks has been divided into distinguishable categories. The procedure for planning and execution of schemes through Panchayats and other village institutions which comes into effect by April 1, 1959, is in pursuance of a decision of the National Development Council. The Council had agreed that in every block, the block organisation and the village organisation should, from the very beginning, be regarded as basic units for formulating and carrying out different programmes. Of Rs. 12 lakhs to be spent in five years in a Stage I block, an amount of Rs. 4.55 lakhs is to be spent on agriculture, irrigation, rural arts and crafts. To the extent possible, this amount is to be spent through the agency of village Co-operatives. Of the remaining amount, a sum of Rs. 2.9 lakhs is to be incurred invariably through the agency of Panchayats and other local institutions, and not through the departmental agency. Following is the item-wise breakup : Education and Social Education Rs. 130,000; Drinking Water Supply Rs. 50,000; Drainage and Sanitation Rs. 25,000; and Communication Rs. 85,000. Powers for making allotments in this category are to be vested in the Block Development Committee. The Schematic Budget of Rs. 5 lakhs for five years of a Stage II block, is similarly to be divided and allotted.

LETTERS

BHARAT DARSHAN

Sir,

Permit me to thank the Government for arranging 'Bharat Darshan' parties for the poor farmers of the countryside. Recently, as a member of one such party, I had the good fortune of seeing many places—both old and new—of this vast land of ours. I had to spend nearly Rs. 300 on this trip, and I must say that the expenditure is negligible in comparison to what we saw and the amenities provided to us. I for myself, could never dream of seeing so much of the country in my life time, if I had to finance such a trip all on my own.

There are several things which struck me most during this trip. We saw the Bhakra Dam, canals under construction as well as the tall buildings that are going up in New Delhi. As a farmer I felt that the money spent on Bhakra dam is well worth it. It is definitely going to help us in agriculture and food production, whereas what is spent on the buildings in New Delhi is meaningless.

While in Calcutta, we had delicious "Rasgullahs", at Allahabad we tasted "Rabdi and Barfi" and at Bombay we enjoyed the "Halwa". When back at home I was asked to describe some of those delicacies, I could not do satisfactorily. The Government now-a-days are bringing out so many books in our languages. Why not then bring out a book in our language which can help us in making these tasty dishes at our homes ?

Yes, we covered many States, saw the people of those localities, but we could not talk to each other owing to the language problem. It would be fine if at such pilgrim centres like Kanya Kumari, Puri, Prayag, Mathura, Hardwar, Badrinath etc. the Government appoints persons who know the local language and that of ours, so that "Bharat Darshan" party members could take their help to know more about the places they visit.

Surat — 30-12-1958

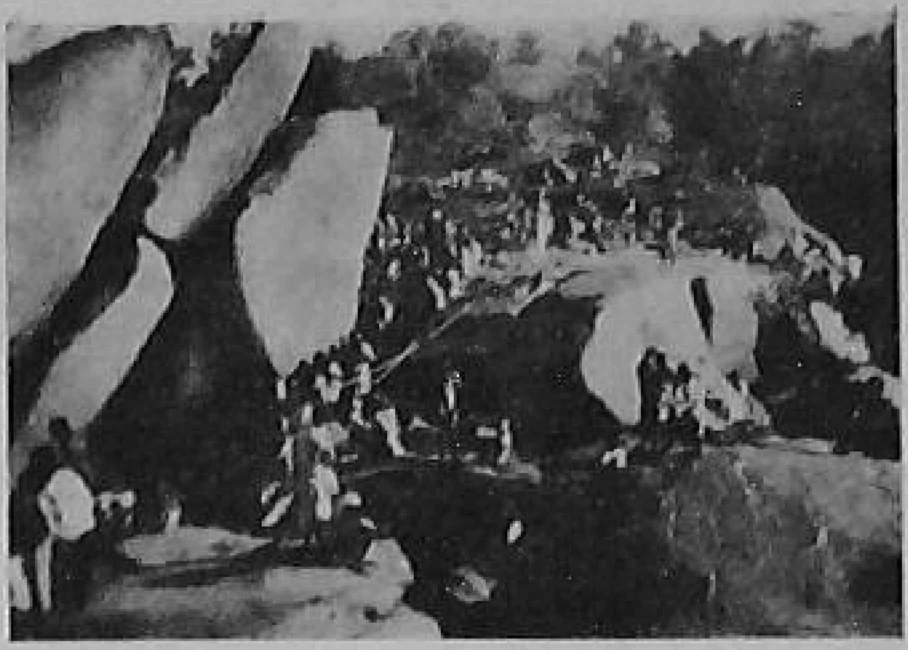
Yours etc.,
R. L. Mehta,
Sarpanch.

KEY MAN

Sir,

The work of the Garm Sevak goes on mounting everyday. They have become so numerous that just to list them would become a big volume. While other members of the Block staff above him, and their number is quite large, fix only targets, the poor Gram Sevak is asked to achieve them unaided. Compliments are being paid to him on paper. He is said to be the "key-man" of the Community Development programme, but in actual practice he has become the "chore boy". He is considered to be the "lowest functionary" of the nation, and hence not entitled to an assistant.

The Gram Sevak is not afraid of the variety of tasks entrusted to him. He is prepared to carry them out, but he needs some help in the field of actual execution.



A Community picnic

When those above him, who are mostly engaged in fixing targets and giving advice are provided with assistants, justice demands that the poor Gram Sevak who is struggling in the field be provided with some assistants or helpers who can relieve his burden to some extent, and make his tasks easier.

Anjar — 10-1-1959

Yours etc.,
R. D. Gupta,
Gram Sevak.

HELP! HELP!

Sir,

It has been agreed on all hands that ultimately the ideal would be to assign one Gram Sevak per village. But under the existing circumstances it is very doubtful whether the number of villages in a Gram Sevak's beat could even be reduced to five. Financial and many other difficulties stand in the way of an immediate change. But in view of the ever-increasing load on the Gram Sevak, it is necessary to provide him with some one to assist him in the field,—to work directly under him (Gram Sevak) as an assistant or helpmate. The training of these helpmates need not be as elaborate as that given to the Gram Sevak. In this way we would also give a chance to a large number of poorly educated but otherwise deserving young-men to serve as Gram Sevaks.

It is time now for the Government to consider the creation of a new cadre of village workers who can be readily selected from amongst Gram Sahayaks, who are now being trained in such large numbers.

Bijnor, 20-1-1959

Yours etc.,
M. L. Shukla,
Gram Sevak.

NATIONAL AWARD

Sir,

The recent National awards during the last Republic Day celebrations to 32 primary and secondary school teachers of the country for "outstanding merit- is an event of joy for the school teachers. The Government has at long last recognized our worth, and we are proud of it. We hope that shortly some steps would be taken to ameliorate our economic condition and material benefits would follow. This is all about the policy of recognition. But most of us do not know what was the basis of selection for the National Award. Instead of following a "pick and choose" method of selection for the award, why not follow the method adopted in the selection of the best Gram Sevak of the country? Let there be selection at the District level, then the State level and finally for the National awards. That I believe, will infuse a spirit of competition amongst a large number of teachers and eventually would benefit the country.

Mandya
Mysore
2-2-1959

Yours etc.,
A. Venkatappa,
An Aspirant.

TEACHERS

Sir,

According to our Prime Minister, the school teacher is one of the three pillars of the Community Development programme, the other two being Panchayats and Co-operatives. Many eminent persons in the past have stressed the importance of our role in the building of the Nation. Some have even gone so far as to say that we are the worst victims of social and economic neglect by the country. But actually very little has been done while a great deal is expected out of the teacher. The condition of the village school teachers is pitiable; the salary they get is hardly sufficient to make both ends meet. The factory worker and even the day-labourer today earns more than that of a primary school teacher. A poor primary school teacher practically had no hope for the future till I learnt the award of National honours to 32 primary and secondary school teachers during the last Republic Day celebrations at Delhi. This has given me hope and courage to face the uncertain future. I eagerly await the day when the Government will sincerely take up our case and see that we receive a fair deal. A neglected and starving person cannot give his best for the cause of the country. Let the National honours be followed by some material benefit for the poor teachers of the country.

Naihati
West Bengal
30-1-1959

Yours etc.,
Sukhendu Bandopadhyay,
A Primary School Teacher.

TWO VILLAGES

(continued from page 15)

has advanced a long way. The youngmen are very enthusiastic. They have established a Yuvak Sangh, a library and have promised to establish a mid-day fruit meal centre. The Japanese method of paddy cultivation is now being practised in the village. To crown all, they have formed a drama group, and have successfully staged the play "Sudama". When the people of Gudari heard about the successful staging of the drama, they were taken aback. They had not been able to stage a drama during the last 30 years. Their idea about Khariguda villagers in the meanwhile has changed and they have invited the drama group to stage the play at Gudari on the Ramnavami day.

Khariguda's progress has opened the eyes of the people of the area. They now come forward and ask the Block staff for aid and guidance for many development works which they intend to take up by themselves.

STUDY TOUR

A GROUP of 20 farm leaders will be sent to U.S.A. in September this year to make a study of community and farm organisations, co-operatives, extension and rural credit. Arranged under the Indo-American Technical Assistance Programme, the study will extend for a period of three months. The farm leaders will be selected from amongst the progressive agriculturists, leaders of farm organisations and rural co-operatives. Persons eligible to be included in the group are required to send their applications through the State Governments or recognised farmers organisations to the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture by February 5.

PROGRAMME COVERAGE

Series	No. of Blocks allotted	No. of villages covered (Approx.)	Population covered in millions (Approx.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
CD Blocks including Special Multipurpose Blocks			
1956-57	252 1/2	36,017	18·59
1957-58	189 1/2	26,651	11·84
Stage I Blocks			
1954-55	20 1/2	2,977	1·83
1955-56	190 1/2	26,143	13·30
1956-57	491	66,815	33·30
1957-58	604	65,922	39·95
1958-59	225	22,387	14·58
Stage II Blocks			
1952-53	210 1/2	26,904	15·35
1953-54	62	7,693	3·91
1955-56	159 1/2	21,438	12·40
TOTAL ..	2,405	3,02,947	165·05

Lack of courtesy is a form of vulgarity of the worst kind. It should not be tolerated; if a public servant is lacking in courtesy, I think he does not deserve to continue in public service. For, all these people are our masters and while we are serving them we are serving our masters.—Govind Ballabh Pant.

OUR MAHILASAMAJ

JACOB SAMUEL

Pazhayannur Block, Kerala.

IT HAPPENED on the eve of the year 1957. A Women's Club—Mahilasamaj—came into being at Pazhayannur.

We shall have a peep into this particular place. A fine village in Kerala State. A beautiful ancient temple is in the heart of the village. Palm-trees raise their heads like green umbrellas. The vast green behind is one of fascinating paddy fields. A Higher Secondary School also stands on the top of a small hill. And what about the people? Staunch Hindus are they; mainly Brahmins.

They are lovable by nature.

The N.E.S. Block was started, with its Headquarters at Pazhayannur. People carefully watched its activities. They were at first suspicious. For a time they viewed the Block-Staff from a distance. But, soon this was changed. The behaviour and conduct of the Staff brought about this change. The public were eager to know more about the N.E.S. programme. They came forth willingly to know and experience for themselves.

Several organisations sprang up in the Block area. The need of a Mahilasamaj was keenly felt by a handful of enthusiastic young women at Pazhayannur. They were the educated ones. Then a problem came up. It was important too. How to get members from such a conservative Hindu society? The women folk of the area were strictly confined to their kitchens. None of them were willing to come out into the open. Still the energetic young women continued their endeavour. "It is a wild goose chase", some people said. Some old ladies even blackmailed them and questioned their intentions. They misinterpreted the formation of the Club. They did not send their daughters. But the young ladies did not stop there. They visited each and every house. Once they decided to take up the cudgels against the old customs, they continued the battle. They held forth on the necessity of forming a Club. They instilled new courage in the women folk of the area. They brushed aside all criticisms and objections. "The blood of brave and gallant *kshatriyas* flow in our veins. We shall not put back our swords without reaching the goal", proclaimed Miss Varma, the leader of the group.

One day their hope was fulfilled. The young ladies of the place flocked together in a house. The local Gram Sevak put forth his suggestions. The Club came into existence. Miss Varma was unanimously elected as the Secretary. A President and Treasurer were selected from among them. They got a fine building, rent-free, to house their Club.

Wide is the sphere of their activity. They raised a poor fund, started a Children's Club with all kinds of sports and games materials and started Music, Embroidery and Knitting Classes. Girls poured in to learn these arts. The number of Members also arose by leaps and bounds. The Block provided aid to the Club in the shape of sewing machines, musical instruments and games and sports materials, both indoor and outdoor. In the evening one can see women from the whole village, in colourful attire assembled there with their children. The women were transported from the kitchen into an atmosphere of enjoyment and enlightenment. Children also have a happy time. They play on the see-saw, glide on the baby-glide and make friends with other children of their age. The whole premises is alive with cheer and enthusiasm, smile and laughter, and colour and beauty! Certain members have also begun to visit the colonies of *adivasis* and instruct them to lead a healthy life.

The aged ones who at first raised sceptical eye-brows carefully watched all these activities. Suspicion disappeared. Finally, what happened? A real enthusiasm caught the aged women too. They began to flow into the Mahilasamaj. Youngsters welcomed them. They formed a nice company. Aged women guide the youngsters' enthusiasm through constructive channels. Social service is their main target. Mrs. Iyer, a good old lady, is the President, now. A new social life is in store for our women in this Block.

Small Industries

The seventh course of training block level extension officers concluded in all the Small Industries Service Institutes on 11*th September,* 1958. *The course provided training to* 248 *officers from various State Governments. The total number of block level extension officers trained so far is* 1269.

Panchayat Tournament : Kabadi in progress

(*Continued from cover page* 2)

over Punjab participated in the tournament. Hockey, Foot-ball, Volley-ball, Tug-of-war, Track events, Wrestling, Kabadi (National and Punjab styles) were some of the events which formed part of the tournament.

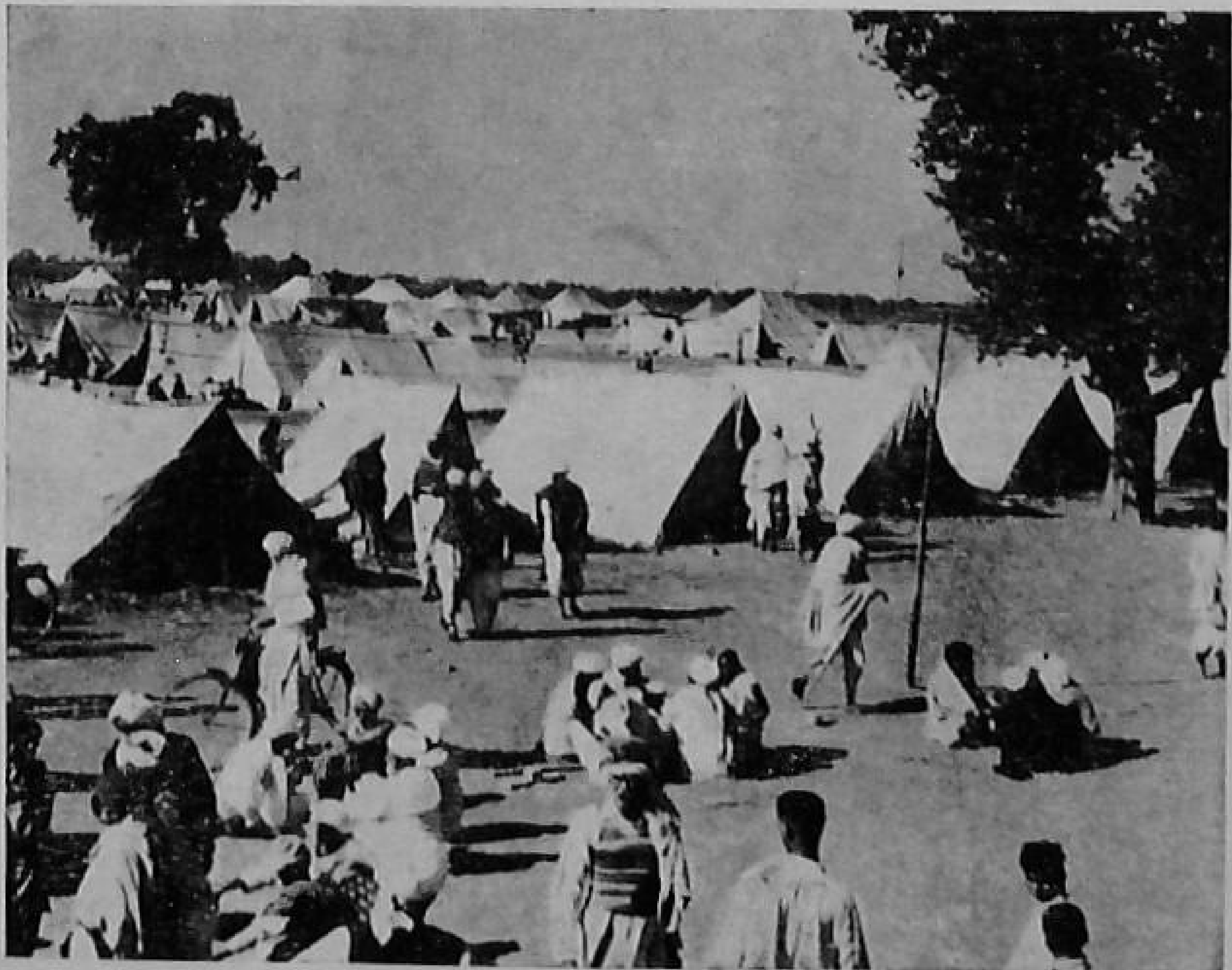
Sports are the only method through which the energy of the youth there can be kept in proper channel. Panchayats are, therefore, required to organise sports in their respective areas. In certion villages, Young Farmers' Clubs have also been organised. Their number in the State is about 400. With a view to foster the spirit of competition among the youth tournaments Tehsil, District, Division and State level are held. The State-tournament is a big event, requiring considerable planning and preparation. Arrangements for accommodating about 2,000 persons and their messing had to be made. This work was divided into sub-committees. Accommodation was provided to the athletes and teams and others in tents ordered on hire for the purpose from Delhi. Number of hand-pumps were installed for drinking water purposes.

Mess arrangements were made in the Government High School Building which was at a distance of about two furlongs from the camping ground. Service at the kitchen was very prompt and it did not take more than two hours to serve meals to the entire lot. All took their meals squatting on the floor in batches of 300 or so at a time. Food served was very wholesome. V.I.Ps. also enjoyed their meals with the rest of the people.

The Punjab Government has earmarked Rs. 5 lakhs for the promotion of rural sports in the States. It is hoped that this step will go a long way in improving the health of the people and detecting talent for various championships. Special efforts are being made to popularise games among girls.

The total number of Panchayats in the Punjab is 10,907 and the number of Panches 63,169. Of them 10,280 belong to Scheduled Castes. The total income of Panchayats in 1956-57 was Rs. 1,24,80,975 of which Rs. 1,08,24,887 were spent on various development works.

Panchayatnagar camp at Samalakha



Rural Housing scheme at Kardi, Hyderabad : Patarchalam C. D. Block

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